

trafficking organizations and shut down markets that fund their illegal drug enterprises.

I am happy that the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER), chairman of the Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy, and Human Resources, with whom I serve as ranking member, supports me in this effort and is an original cosponsor of this legislation. I deeply appreciate his support for families like the Dawsons, and urge all of my colleagues to support the Dawson Family Community Protection Act, not only to protect families, but also to allow their voices to be heard.

Lastly, I especially thank Tony Haywood, our counsel to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, for his tireless work on this legislation; as well as Michael Christianson, Kimberly Ross, and Asi Oforu on my staff for their assistance.

TRIBUTE TO NBC NEWS REPORTER DAVID BLOOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a son of Minnesota who died tragically this weekend while embedded with the 3rd Army Infantry Division in Iraq.

NBC news reporter David Bloom was a native of Edina, Minnesota, in the Third Congressional District which I am privileged to represent. David's parents, Harold and Laura Bloom, and his brother, John Bloom, are residents of Edina.

David distinguished himself at an early age as a champion debater and hockey player at Edina West High School. David was also an avid fan of his beloved Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Twins, and he often touted his hometown teams on national television.

David Bloom's meteoric rise as a journalist was nothing short of spectacular. As his NBC colleague, Katie Couric, said, "David was always there for the story and not the glory. He was a reporter's reporter." Another NBC colleague, Matt Lauer, said, "David personified energy, passion, compassion, and balance."

With his engaging personality, sound intellect, high level of energy, and great sense of humor, David Bloom's 10-year career at NBC News always drew rave reviews. From his early years at the network in Chicago and Los Angeles to his years as White House correspondent and co-anchor of Weekend Today, David Bloom always got the story.

As NBC Washington Bureau Chief Tim Russert said, "David was first and foremost a competitor. He was very resourceful, stretching every deadline he ever met. One marvels at how much he did and how well he did it."

Mr. Russert and many other close friends and colleagues also have said

that David loved his wife, Melanie, and his three daughters more than anything. When Russert gave him the nickname "Bloomster", David readily told them it was his second favorite nickname. His favorite nickname was "Dad."

Madam Speaker, David Bloom was well-liked and respected by everyone who knew him. That was evidenced by the lofty praise that has filled the airwaves and the newspapers across America since his tragic and untimely death at age 39.

David Bloom was a great credit to his native Minnesota, his beloved family and friends, and his profession. As his co-anchor, Soledad O'Brien, put it, there was not a dry eye anywhere at NBC. I know my colleagues here in the House of Representatives feel the same profound sadness at the loss of David Bloom. Our thoughts and prayers go out to David Bloom's family, his wife, Melanie, and daughters Nicole, Christine, and Ava, as well as David's parents, Harold and Laura, and his brothers, John and Jim.

IMPACT OF THE LACK OF ENFORCEMENT OF IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS ON THE ADAMS FAMILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDI. Madam Speaker, it was a little over a year ago that I had the opportunity to visit with a gentleman who was, at that time, the head of a ministry in the Vicente Fox government in Mexico. His name was Juan Hernandez. Mr. Hernandez was head of a new agency that was called the Ministry for Mexicans Living in the United States. It was interesting that that would be the name of any new governmental entity that had just been created, but that was it, a new agency, the Ministry for Mexicans Living in the United States.

In the discussion we had, I found it interesting in that when I asked him specifically what was the purpose of such an agency, he said, well, it was to, first of all, increase the flow of Mexican nationals into the United States. I asked him for what purpose. He said essentially that in doing that the hope was, of the Mexican Government, that it would influence United States policy towards Mexico, because he wanted to have a large number of Mexican nationals living in the United States, but with political, economic, and cultural ties remaining to Mexico. So his job was split between encouraging the flow, on one hand, and then encouraging this connection on the other, a connection that would remain.

We talked a little longer. There were two other Members of the Congress there with me that evening. He said something that I thought we were all kind of amazed at. He said, Congressman, it is not two countries, it is just a region.

I know that he believed that, and many other people do. I think perhaps even people in this body may think of it that way: It is not really two countries, it is just a region where the border does not matter; it is inconsequential, and it is sometimes even problematic because it does restrict the free flow of people across that particular part of the country. There are folks who look at it in that way. Borders, they think, are anachronisms, not necessary, anymore; and after all, it was really just a region.

What has happened as a result of this shift in philosophy, this shift in government philosophy in Mexico in particular, the push for people to come north? In the past, Mexico had treated people coming across the border with some disdain, and there was actually a derogatory term applied to people who left Mexico.

But in the last 5 to 6 years, because of the importance of what Mr. Hernandez was described as trying to influence American foreign policy vis-a-vis Mexico, and also because of the importance that remittances play. Remittances is the amount of money made in the United States, or countries outside of Mexico, but sent back into Mexico to family members that now accounts for something over 30 percent of their gross domestic product. Therefore, of course, they are very interested in using America as a way of expanding that particular phenomenon. That is fine.

On our side, we have, of course, abandoned the borders. We have made sort of an unwritten agreement with Mexico that we would not really do anything to significantly impede the flow of those people into the United States for our own reasons, some of it dealing with cheap labor and our demand for it; others because of the political consequences that arise as a result of a massive flow of people across the border into the United States who will sometimes themselves vote, even illegally, but eventually become voters after a period of time, or their children will after they have been born here and are citizens of the United States.

But this has had an impact on certain folks. We do not hear anything about them. That is why I come just about every week with another individual, another person. Tonight I am going to talk a little bit about Frank Adams. Frank and his wife Barbara operate a small ranch of about 500 acres. It is about 3½ miles north of Douglas, Arizona.

Here is a picture of Frank. They have lived on this ranch for about a half a century. They are only 3½ miles north of the border. Their daughter lives on that ranch with them, and they have two grown sons living in Texas. Their experience is not an awful lot different from many of the other ranchers on that border area who I have brought to the attention of the body in the past.